



For Amarillo City Employees
Volume 4, Issue 11 • November 2014

ACE Employee Newsletter

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City Employees Support United Way Efforts

It may have felt like winter earlier this week, but it's still fall, a time of year when City employees rally together to raise funds for a great cause—the United Way of Amarillo & Canyon. In addition to the Employee Giving Campaign, the City hosts a number of events to support the United Way including Jersey Fridays, Blue Jean Fridays, the Chili Throwdown, a Change Drive and more.

Chili Throwdown

Everyone had a great time—and great food—at the 4th Annual Chili Throwdown. Congratulations goes to **Ray Arias** and **Rhonda Perry** from Park Maintenance who placed 1st in both the Beans and No Beans categories (Pictured Top Right). **Brad Hofmann**, **Jeanette Stiles** and **Lupe Rangel** from Building Safety placed 2nd in the Beans Category while **Jeramy Parrie** from Director of Utilities placed 2nd in the No Beans category. Great job!

Mayor Paul Harpole, Miss Amarillo Nakisha Nation and News Anchor Andy Justus from KAMR NBC 4 served as celebrity judges (Pictured Center Right). We also enjoyed great music by Dean Yates and Mary Lyn Halley of Insufficient Funds. Thanks to all our employees who participated—especially those who cooked the delicious chili—and to Transit for letting us invade their space at the Service Center.

Change Drive

The final counts are in and the 2014 United Way Change Drive winner for Location 1 is the Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport! Congratulations to the entire staff at the airport for raising a record \$359.31. They will receive a pizza party for winning the contest.

The grand total for all City teams this year is \$1,383.23! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the United Way change drive. Plus, you may recall that Deputy City Manager Vicki Covey agreed to take a pie in the face from the City Hall department that raised the most money during our United Way Change Drive. That distinction goes to Public Works!

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you from your United Way Loaned Executives—**Carol Hill** from Purchasing (Pictured Bottom Right), **Tim Loan** from Director of Utilities and **Clint Stoddard** from Parks & Recreation as well as **Blair Snow**, who once again served as Company Coordinator for this year's fundraising efforts!



City Loses Great Leader

Following a lengthy illness, longtime Amarillo City Councilman Jim Simms has passed away at the age of 73. He was first elected to the then City Commission in 2005 as Place 4 Commissioner, and was re-elected to four more consecutive terms.



"The City has lost a great leader in Jim Simms," says Mayor Paul Harpole. "It would be difficult to enumerate all the issues where he made a positive impact on our City. Jim had one rule and he lived up to it – 'do what's right.' Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

The Mayor's sentiments were echoed by fellow Councilmembers.

"Jim has been involved in countless leadership positions locally and statewide," says Councilmember Dr. Brian Eades. "He could always be counted on to lead, not with a heavy hand, but with a self-effacing sense of humor. I miss him already."

Councilmember Lilia Escajeda always considered Councilmember Simms a friend, not just a fellow councilmember.

"I always admired his convictions. He was always fair in all he did," she says. "He was a crusty guy who was always able to get a laugh out of us. He was a true servant for our City – on the state and local level. I'm going to miss him a whole lot."

"This is a huge, huge loss for our community and his wit and wisdom will be missed," says Councilmember Ellen Robertson Green. "This community owes a great debt to Jim. He truly left his mark on the Panhandle."

"Jim cared greatly for our City and its employees," says City Manager Jarrett Atkinson. "We extend our sincerest condolences to his wife, Freeda, their three children and grandchildren."

Councilmember Simms was very active in the community, serving in numerous volunteer capacities including, but not limited to, Amarillo Independent School District, Amarillo Hospital District, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, United Way of Amarillo & Canyon, Children's Learning Center and Kids, Inc.

He owned Mitchell Electric for 28 years, selling in 1999. He then served as Vice President of Amarillo National Bank for the next 11 years, before retiring to focus on his family and service to his community.



Amarillo Public Library's recent Willy Wonka event spanned all five libraries, drawing close to 500 participants! To learn more about all your Amarillo Public Library has to offer, visit www.amarillolibrary.org.

Below: Sam Gomez from the East Branch Library with the Willy Wonka mural he created for the Library's City-Wide Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."



Above: North Branch Library staffer Kirk Walvoord shows off the Oompa Loompa photo opportunity offered at the North Branch's Celebration.



Saturday, Dec. 6

9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Downtown Library, 413 SE 4th

Crafts • Games • Carols • Movies

Call 378-3089 for more information!

Test Your Safety IQ—Take the Quiz!

by Charlie Sanchez, Safety Director

How much do we know about safety? When asked a question about safety, how often have you said to yourself, “I knew that” or, “I wonder if my co-worker knows the answer to that”? Let’s put on our thinking caps to test our knowledge about general safety rules. This will be a self-check honor system to check yourself, but to also have a better understanding of your safety knowledge. I will provide you the answers—but you’ll have to find them on another page of this newsletter! With that in mind, let’s test your knowledge:

1. Wearing a back belt is a proven way to minimize the risk of back injury at work.

True or False?

2. Which of the following must be tested FIRST before an employee enters a confined space?

- a) Oxygen content
- b) Flammable gases & vapors
- c) Potential toxic air contaminants

3. The primary function of a fire door is to exit a building in case of a fire.

True or False?

4. Below is a list of fire extinguisher types matched with surfaces on which they can be used. Which is the incorrect option?

- a) Class A- cloth, wood, paper and rubber
- b) Class B- Plastics, oil, grease, gasoline, solvents and other flammable liquids
- c) Class C- Wiring, fuse boxes, electrical equipment and computers
- d) Class D- Combustible metals such as magnesium, potassium, titanium and sodium
- e) Class K- Cooking fluids such as fats and oils

5. Which of the classes of hard hats in the list below can save you from high voltage shocks as well as provide penetration and impact resistance?

- a) Class A
- b) Class B
- c) Class C
- d) Both A and B
- e) Both A and C



What's New at the Zoo?

Pumpkin Smash!



Saturday, Nov. 29
9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ever wonder what happens to all of the pumpkins after BOO at the Zoo? Wonder no more! Pumpkin Smash is a full day of chomping, stomping, rolling animal enrichment that is sure to delight. From the monkeys to the donkeys and even the tigers, all of the Zoo's creatures enjoy pumpkins, whether they snack on one or simply spend the day playing!

From 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. enjoy regularly scheduled enrichment as you explore the Zoo. This event is included with regular Zoo admission. Visit www.amarillozoo.org for more information!

Annual APD Fundraiser Draws Huge Crowd

Although the official tally isn't quite in, it is safe to say approximately 750 people were served at the Amarillo Police Department's 2nd Annual Police Benefit Fundraiser. Proceeds from this event assist APD employees and their families in times of extreme need. Thank you for helping!

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Torres, APD Photo Technician



AMARILLO ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND WELFARE



With the implementation of the City's new logo earlier this year as well as a department name change, Amarillo Animal Management & Welfare is happy to show off new swag. Pictured from left are Deanna Lamkin, Administrative Technician, Elisa Yara, Office Manager, Martha Pacheco, Animal Intake Specialist and Rosie Lomeli, Administrative Specialist V.

Improvements Ahead!



Have you ever had a difficult time with the bumps at ADA-compliant crosswalks? If you've had to go over it in a wheelchair—it's no walk in the park! But that



could soon change with the availability of new products. Director of Public Works Michael Rice shows a product that looks similar, but has a different feel and different application process. The test area is on the east side of City Hall and if it works, you could see improvements throughout the City down the road!

Recent Retiree Recognized

Laura Blount retired from the City of Amarillo with 20 years of service on Aug. 20. Laura's position with Emergency Management focused on preparing our community to respond to any potential incident that might occur at the Pantex Plant, which involved coordination with government officials at all levels.



At a reception Nov. 4, the State of Texas honored Laura's dedicated service with the commission of "Yellow Rose of Texas" presented by Mr. Roger Mulder from the State Energy Conservation Office.

Congratulations Laura and we all wish you the best in retirement!

Welcome Jeff Konishi!

Jeff Konishi started in his new role as director of Information Technology in mid-October. Prior to coming to Amarillo, Jeff served in the same capacity for the City of Englewood, Colorado, where he served for nearly seven years as an executive management team member. He was responsible for all technology initiatives and fostering an environment of change from manual processing to a technology-centric solution for the City.



While there, Jeff was also involved in many industry organizations including the Colorado Government Association of Information Technology (CGAIT) and Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC), Colorado Technology Association, as well as serving as a member of the Executive Board for The IT Summit.

Jeff earned his master's in Computer Information Systems from the University of Denver and holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from University of Northern Colorado. Please join us in welcoming Jeff to the City!

From the Pantry ...

Prepared by Margaret Payton, MBA, RD



Crispy Pork Stir-Fry with Baby Bok Choy

Hands on: 30 minutes

Total: 30 minutes

- 10 ounces very thinly sliced pork shoulder
- 1½ teaspoons dark sesame oil
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 heads baby bok choy, quartered lengthwise
- 1 ½ cups (2-inch) pieces haricot verts (French green beans)
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped peeled fresh ginger
- 3 large garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lower-sodium soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- ¼ cup sliced green onions
- 2 cups hot cooked long-grain brown rice

1. Heat a large wok over high heat until very hot. Toss pork with sesame oil, salt and pepper. Add pork to pan; let stand 2 minutes, without stirring, so that pork gets crispy and browned. Stir-fry pork 2 minutes or until well browned on all sides. Let stand 1 minute with stirring. Spoon pork into a bowl; set aside.
2. Reheat pan over high heat until very hot. Add canola oil; swirl to coat. Add bok choy; stir-fry 2 minutes. Add green beans, ginger, garlic, and bell pepper; stir-fry 3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Combine vinegar, soy sauce, and brown sugar, stirring until sugar dissolves. Remove pan from heat; stir in vinegar mixture, tossing to coat. Stir in pork. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve over rice.

Nutritional Information Amount per serving: Calories 331; Fat 11.3g; Saturated fat: 2.5g; Monounsaturated fat: 5.6g; Polyunsaturated fat: 2.6g; Protein: 19.7g; Carbohydrate: 39.1g; Fiber: 9g; Cholesterol: 47mg; Iron: 2.3mg; Sodium: 463mg; Calcium: 107mg

Promotions/Transfers for October 2014

Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Summer Tubbs	Admin. Asst. - hrly	AECC	Office Administrator	AECC
Andy Cobb	Accountant I	Accounting	Accountant II	Accounting
Aubrey Grady	Accountant II	Accounting	Accountant III	Accounting
Eligio Garcia	Equipment Operator	Street	Street Supervisor I	Street
David Ybarra	Mechanic II	Municipal Garage	Route Supervisor	Solid Waste Collection
Francisco Jimenez	Utility Worker - hrly	Solid Waste Disposal	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Disposal
William Lutz	Utility Worker - hrly	Solid Waste Disposal	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Disposal
Thomas Callahan	Corporal	Police	Sergeant	Police
Randal Duval	Corporal	Police	Sergeant	Police
Robin James	Corporal	Police	Sergeant	Police
Mitchell Matathews	Corporal	Police	Sergeant	Police
Michael Morrison	Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Jaycin Smothermon	Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Norris Tollerson	Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Michael Vigil	Officer	Police	Corporal	Police
Traci White	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance	Park Foreperson I	Park Maintenance
Olivith Mercado	Teller- hrly	City Federal Credit Union	Teller	City Federal Credit Union
Shawn Holland	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Utility Operator	Water Distribution
Michael Priest	Utility Worker - hrly	Water Transmission	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Jerrod Standridge	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Utility Operator	Water Distribution
Charles Moreno	Utility Worker - hrly	Hollywood Road WWT Plant	Utility Worker	Hollywood Road WWT Plant
Robert Salazar	Utility Worker - hrly	Hollywood Road WWT Plant	Utility Worker	Hollywood Road WWT Plant
Travis Bates	Stormwater Inspector	Laboratory Administration	Environmental Technician	Laboratory Administration

Employee Milestones

Name	Department	Title	Years
Donald Bartlett	Building Safety	Community Safety Inspector	10
Jarrett Atkinson	City Manager	City Manager	10
Sysavath "CC" Sysombath	Director of Utilities	Resource Administrator	10
Christine Hall	Environmental Health	Sanitarian III	10
Noah Vandagriff	Facilities Maintenance	Facilities Coordinator I	10
Jose Garcia	Fire Operations	Fire Fighter	10
Jeremiah Harm	Fire Operations	Fire Fighter	10
James Kinard	Fire Operations	Fire Driver	10
Aaron Sawyer	Fire Operations	Fire Lieutenant	10
Whit White	IT Infrastructure & Support	Senior IT Analyst	10
David Sanchez	Utilities Office	Utility Billing Manager	10
Glenn Noack	Water Transmission	Electronics/Instrumentation Tech	10
Carmel Barnhill	Library	Library Assistant	15
David Lester	Water Distribution	Water & Sewer Supervisor I	15
Timothy Holman	Central Stores	Central Stores Manager	20
Pamela Heffner	Civilian Personnel	Administrative Assistant I	20
Gerry Lee Aaron	Police	Sergeant	30
Douglas Glick	Police	Police Officer	30
Danny Perez	Police	Corporal	30
Ramiro Ballesteros	Street Department	Equipment Operator II	30
Ivan McKee	Surface Water Treatment	Treatment Plant Operator III	35

**KEEP
CALM
AND
MANAGE
RECORDS**

Are you responsible for managing the records for your department? If so, you'll find helpful information at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/slr/recordspubs/localretention.html>

For more information, contact Assistant City Secretary Liz Swearingen at 378-3013 or liz.swearingen@amarillo.gov

Welcome to the COA Team!

Name	Title	Department
Timothy Rose	Asst. Production Mgr.	Civic Center
Kristin Loyd	Adm. Asst. - hrly	Library
Pamela Dillard	Adm. Asst.	Library
Audry Martinez	Emerg. Comms. Spec. - hrly	AECC
Kyle Longacre	Emerg. Comms. Spec. - hrly	AECC
Jareth Fortenberry	Emerg. Comms. Spec. - hrly	AECC
Belanie Kennedy	Accountant III	Accounting
Matthew Smith	Engineering Assistant I	Engineering
Brandon Rodriquez	Utility Worker - hrly	Street
Gaylan Tucker	Utility Worker	Street
Alexis Reina Salinas	Res. Equip. Operator	Solid Waste Collection
John D'Costa	Comm. Equip. Operator	Solid Waste Collection
Darius Profancik	Utility Worker	Solid Waste Disposal
Makayla Arbogast	Animal Care Worker	Animal Mgt. & Welfare
Romonique Osborne	Bus Driver	Transit
Ernest Welch	Custodian I	Ross Rogers Golf Course
Katy Barris	Admin Assistant II	Athletic Adm. (Parks)
Jacob Romero	Firefighter	Fire
Dustin Rogers	Firefighter	Fire
Matthew Moss	Firefighter	Fire
Kelvin Wynn	Firefighter	Fire
Cody Waide	Firefighter	Fire
Jeremy Sorrells	Firefighter	Fire
Justin Pillow	Firefighter	Fire
Caleb McGuire	Firefighter	Fire
Brandon McCullough	Firefighter	Fire
Brett Havard	Firefighter	Fire
Martin Grant	Firefighter	Fire
Christopher Gibson	Firefighter	Fire
Craig Eddins	Firefighter	Fire
Thomas Bonner	Firefighter	Fire
Tyler Bolding	Firefighter	Fire
Valerie Davis	Admin Assistant IV	Community Devpt.
Kristina Tillery	Housing Technician	Community Devpt.
Stephanie Friemel	Nutritionist II - hrly	WIC
Derek Ray	WIC Technician - hrly	WIC
Israel Garcia	Meter Reader I	Utility Billing
Angelica Lira	Admin Assistant II	Director of Utilities
Melinda Armstrong	Admin Assistant III	Director of Utilities
Kenneth Strong	Utility Worker	Water Production
Bradley Koch	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Andrew Malleck	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Javier Fuentes	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Christopher Kleeves	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Ethan Reddoch	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Michael Coffey	Industrial Waste Inspector	Laboratory Admin.
Rondala Dubois	Custodian I	Dept of Aviation
Christopher Carranza	Mechanic I	Municipal Garage
Jeffrey Konishi	IT Director	IT

Congratulations October Retirees!

Frank Hunt

Civic Center
6 years

Jeff True

Facilities
14 years

Carl "Dean" Martin

Transit
15 years

Kevin E. Brown

Amarillo Fire Department
25 years

Douglas Lemons

Municipal Garage
29 years

Your City is Social!



Smile of the Month!



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PUBLICATION POLICY:

The ACE employee newsletter is distributed by the City Secretary's office monthly through e-mail, print copies and the City's Intranet site. It is designed to help keep you informed of events and accomplishments throughout the organization you serve. If you have ideas for future stories, features or photo opportunities, or to receive this newsletter electronically, contact:

newsletter@amarillo.gov
378-3549

Items must be received no later than the first Friday of each month to make that month's edition.

All items are subject to space availability and edited for appropriateness.

CITY OF AMARILLO

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Safety Corner *(continued from Page 3)*

1. **The correct answer is FALSE.** After its two studies, "Workplace Use of Back Belts" and "Review and Recommendations and Back Belts – Do They Prevent Injury?", the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has concluded that there isn't sufficient evidence which proves that back belts work as a preventative measure against back injuries.
2. **The correct answer is (A).** Before an employee enters the space, the internal atmosphere shall be tested, with a calibrated direct-reading instrument, for oxygen content, for flammable gases and vapors, and for potential toxic air contaminants, in that order.
3. **The correct answer is False.** Although in some cases fire doors are used as emergency exits in the event of a fire, the primary function of a fire door is to act as a fire barrier and contain fire and smoke to prevent it from entering parts of the building unaffected by fire at the time.
4. **The correct answer is (B) Class B - Plastics, oils, grease, gasoline, solvents, and other flammable liquids.** Class B

fire extinguishers use carbon dioxide as the fire-fighting agent and can extinguish oils, paints, lacquers, grease, solvents and flammable liquids. Fires on plastic surfaces can be put out via a Class A fire extinguisher, which uses water.

5. **The correct answer is (D) Hard hats fit into three industrial classes:**

- Class A hard hats resist impact and penetration and protect against electric shocks (up to 2,200 volts)
- Class B hard hats offer the greatest protection against high voltage shocks and burns (up to 20,000 volts). They also save workers from penetration and impact hazards caused by falling/flying objects.
- Class C hard hats offer only impact protection and lightweight comfort but do not provide any protection against electrical hazards.

"Safety is something that happens between your ears, not something you hold in your hands" And as always, **"TAKE SAFETY HOME!"**